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Approved For Release 2001/11/19 : CIA-RDP78B04747A000400020022-2

11 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Discussion with NPIC Officials on the Feasibility of Aerial Photography for Developing Estimating Procedures of Crop Production in the Sino-Soviet Bloc

PARTICIPANTS:

[REDACTED]

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1. On Tuesday, October 5, the above named participants held an informal session at NPIC headquarters for the purpose of further exploring the feasibility and potential use of aerial photography in the development of a technique for estimating the yield of selected crops in Communist countries.

2. The session was designed to bring members of the working level together to discuss techniques which could be used to develop keys for crop identification and for an analysis of crop yields.

3. NPIC members of the working level group were aware of the fact that a limited amount of success had been achieved by outside groups in the development of keys for crop identification and area measurements, but knew of no program that had developed keys for estimating crop yields. NPIC stated that its own resources for undertaking a program of this depth were limited, but that it was agreeable to undertaking a program of limited scope.

4. R/AG believes that a minimum goal at this time would be a study of the major grain areas and we suggested that a pilot project for developing keys for estimating crop yields might be initiated based on photographic surveys of major winter or spring grain areas [REDACTED]. The advantage of such a program would be the availability of ground observations, crop condition reports, and final yield results which could serve as a guide in the identification of keys by a P.I. Analyst.

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5. NPIC stated that its technical flights did cover select areas of the [REDACTED] and that the data from these flights could be retrieved for a beginning study. NPIC also implied that it would be willing to lend limited assistance in the analysis of this information. NPIC doubted that an external contract for a study of this nature would be feasible at this time.

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6. The R/AG representative indicated that we intend to explore more fully the possibilities of developing such a program and that further checks would be made with [REDACTED] ORD, (DD/S&T) on current programs now under way.

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7. After consulting with ORD [REDACTED] we plan to suggest that a beginning survey of available photographic data of major wheat areas [REDACTED] be initiated by NPIC. CIA would lend support in supplying crop yields and acreage for the selected areas. A more detailed outline of this proposal would be sent to NPIC prior to the next meeting.

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[REDACTED]

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